

## I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A receiver medium for digital imaging, comprising a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a Tg of <50°C.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the end groups of the highly branched polymer ~~carrying~~ carry functional groups selected from OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NR<sub>2</sub>, COOH, CONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCOR, CONHR, SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NHR, SO<sub>3</sub>H, NHCONH<sub>2</sub>, NHCONHR, =NOH and PO<sub>3</sub>H, in which R is selected from CH, NO<sub>2</sub>, Cl, F, Br, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, NHCOC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, NHC<sub>6</sub>phenyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>alkyl, NHSO<sub>2</sub>phenyl and aryloxy ~~and preferably from the groups having at least one H atom.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 1, 2, or 20, wherein at least 50% of ~~50%, preferably at least 70%~~, of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry fractional groups.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the highly branched polymer has a molecular weight of at least 1000.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the radius of gyration of the highly branched polymer is in the range 2 nm to 10 nm.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the host polymer is selected from polymers including polyesters, acrylic polymers, vinyl polymers, poly(vinyl pyridine), vinyl pyrrolidone/vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymers, and cellulosic polymers.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the highly branched polymer is present in an amount in the range 10% to 90% ~~by to 90%, preferably 20 to 60%, by weight of the coating.~~

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the substrate is in the form of a film or sheet of material.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the substrate is pre-treated prior to application of the coating.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  ~~for 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, especially in the range from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$~~ , for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing and in the range 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  for media for use in ink jet printing.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coating includes particulate filler material.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, including a top coat over the coating.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A receiver medium according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, including one or more back coats on the side of the substrate remote from the dye-receiving surface.

Claim 14. (Original) A method of making a receiver medium, comprising applying to a dye-receiving surface of a substrate a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a  $T_g < 50^\circ\text{C}$ .

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method of printing, comprising applying dye to the dye-receiving surface of receiver medium in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 by a digital imaging technique.

Claim 16. (Original) A digital imaging receiver medium/dye combination in which the receiver medium comprises a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in

a host polymer having a  $T_g < 50^\circ\text{C}$ , and the dye is capable of interacting with the highly branched polymer.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 16, wherein the receiver medium comprising a substrate having a dye-receiving surface bearing a coating comprising a highly branched functionalised polymer of generally globular form dispersed in a host polymer, wherein the host polymer has a  $T_g$  of  $<50^\circ\text{C}$  and wherein at least some of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups selected from OH,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NHR}$ ,  $\text{NR}_2$ ,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $\text{NHCOR}$ ,  $\text{CONHR}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NHR}$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{NHCONH}_2$ ,  $\text{NHCONHR}$ ,  $=\text{NOH}$  and  $\text{PO}_3\text{H}$ , in which R is selected from CH,  $\text{NO}_2$ , Cl, F, Br,  $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkoxy}$ ,  $\text{NHCOC}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{NHCOPhenyl}$ ,  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{phenyl}$  and aryloxy is in accordance with any one of claims 2 to 13.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein the dye has functional groups complementary to functional groups of the highly branched polymer.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A combination according to claim 16 ~~claim 16, 17, or 18~~, wherein the highly branched polymer and dye are capable of interacting by acid-base reaction.

Claim 20. (New) A receiver medium according to claim 2, wherein at least some of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups having at least one H atom.

Claim 21. (New) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein at least 70% of the end groups of the highly branched polymer carry functional groups.

Claim 22. (New) A receiver medium according to claim 1, wherein the highly branched polymer is present in an amount in the range 20% to 60% by weight of the coating.

Claim 23. (New) A receiver medium according to claim 13, wherein the coating has a thickness of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing.

Claim 24. (New) A receiver medium according to claim 13, wherein the coating has a thickness in the range from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  for media for use in thermal dye transfer printing.